GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3297
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Assistance to Widows
Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to address the problems faced by Dalit widows in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government provides any additional assistance to the widows and their children and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken measures against those who discriminate against the widows and if so, the details of the measures taken thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to various States for protecting the interests of the Dalit widows and if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Rural Development under the National Social Assistance Program has a component namely "Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme" for all such widows who meet with the eligibility criteria. Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing several schemes/programmes such as Swadhar, Short Stay Home, Working Women Hostels, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), which can be availed by all categories of women including those who are members of Scheduled Castes, meeting with the criteria prescribed under the concerned scheme.
As regard discrimination against widows, various schemes have provisions for empowerment of women including widows for their development in general.
In regard to offences of atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, an Act of Parliament namely the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, as amended has specific provisions related to sexual and other form of exploitation of women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which attract prescribed punishment.